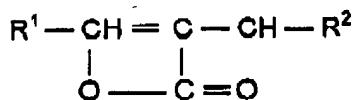


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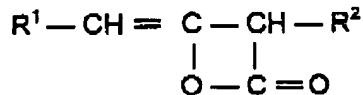
No claims have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are currently pending.

This preliminary amendment is being submitted to correct an obvious error in the specification, namely, an error in the chemical formula on page 3, lines 16-18. Based on a review of the specification, one skilled in the art would readily recognize the existence of the error in the formula and the appropriate correction to the formula. Accordingly, no new matter has been added. See MPEP § 2163.07; *In re Odd*, 443 F.2d 1200, 170 U.S.P.Q. 268 (CCPA 1971).

The formula in the application as filed reads:



While the correct the formula, as amended, now reads as follows:

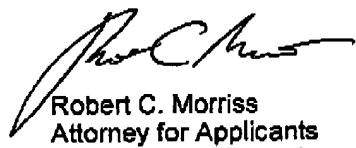


It is apparent from the number of bonds to the carbon atoms that the formula in the application (as filed) cannot be correct. In that regard, the C adjacent to the R¹ group incorrectly contains 5 bonds and the C adjacent to the R² group incorrectly contains only 3 bonds.

The specification at page 3, line 14 identifies the formula as a general formula for a ketene dimer. The specification otherwise refers to the use of an alkyl ketene dimer (AKD). See specification at page 1, line 7 and Examples. One skilled in the art would readily recognize that the formula, as amended, is the correct formula for the ketene dimer. In that regard, the correct formula can be found in standard literature regarding ketene dimers, see for example Reynolds, Walter F.: The sizing of Paper; Second Edition (1989); TAPPI Press; pages 36-38 (copy enclosed with Supplemental IDS filed herewith). Thus, a person skilled in the art can unambiguously and readily identify the correct formula. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application as amended is now in proper form for consideration on the merits, which action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any questions relating to this Amendment or to this application in general, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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